

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 23rd of June 2026.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Anton ZS6WG, with the weekly news bulletin of the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society.

This bulletin is being transmitted on the 2m Kempton Park Repeater, on 145.6625 MHz

Read only if Echolink is available Echolink users can connect to ZS6KTS, or node 8041 (or if club Echolink is not available ZS0AWA-L), to listen to and partake in the news bulletin.

Welcome to everyone on frequency. Please stay tuned for some interesting SARL and Club news items.

SARL NEWS:

FIRST 24 GHZ EME QSO INTO AFRICA:

On Sunday 14 June 2026, the first ever 24 GHz EME contact is made with the African Continent. John, ZS6JON and Hans, PE1CKK made a two-way contact via the moon. This QSO had a long preparation, John contacted Hans a year ago and asked if he had some parts to make a 24 GHz setup. Parts are very hard to find in South Africa for 24 GHz.

After lot of e-mail and chat contact, John had the system up and running last Sunday. Right at the first TX cycle, John had a decode from Hans and the QSO was finished. The setup will stay for some time in SA, so John is open for skeds. Working conditions are a 1,8 m Dish, a Wavelab transverter, RW1127 twt 25W and DU3T Ina.

BACAR-14 SKYBRIDGE LAUNCH DATE MOVED TO 17 OCTOBER 2026:

The BACAR-14 Skybridge launch date has been moved from 10 October to Saturday 17 October 2026, weather permitting. BACAR is the abbreviation for Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio. The date change has been made to avoid a clash with the SARL Radio Amateur Examination for new amateur radio candidates on 10 October 2026. BACAR-14 fully supports the development of new radio amateurs, and the revised date allows candidates, assessors, clubs and supporting radio amateurs to focus on the examination weekend without conflict.

BACAR-14 Skybridge is a high-altitude amateur radio balloon project focused on exploring how affordable, recoverable communications hardware can support SARL HAMNET search-and-rescue and disaster communications from the stratosphere.

Call for community payload suggestions. BACAR-14 also invites the amateur radio and technical community to propose additional payloads, experiments and support systems that can add value to the mission without compromising safety, RF discipline or recovery.

Suggested payload ideas may include communications experiments, telemetry sensors, camera systems, recovery aids, education payloads, ground-station tools, or other lightweight experiments suitable for a high-altitude balloon mission. Proposed payloads should include a short description, owner, expected mass, power source, frequency/mode if transmitting and what the payload will demonstrate.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Read more in the SARL Communication dated Thursday 18 June 2026. If you did not receive the Communication, contact the SARL Secretary at secretary@sarl.org.za.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during the week. There are currently 3 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a low to moderate probability for C-class and a low probability for M-class solar flares. If operators want to do their own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 64. The 30 to 15 m bands may, especially in the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

26 June – Provincial Schools close

26 to 28 June – Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen

30 June – International Asteroid Day and the end of the SARL 2025/26 SARL Financial Year

1 July – the start of the SARL 2026/27 Financial Year

CLUB NEWS:

JULY CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our July monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 11th of June 2026 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards. Please save the date!!! See you all there!!!

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. Stephanie XYL of Alvin ZS6ASK celebrating her birthday tomorrow on Wednesday the 24th of June. Congratulations from all of us, hope you have a great day!!!

If we have missed out on your big day, please contact any committee member to update our records

ADDITIONAL NEWS:

If there is anyone who would like to share any additional or any specific club news with the listeners, you are welcome to call in now.

1. _____ 2. _____

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

SWOP SHOP:

This is your opportunity to advertise a swop, or any amateur equipment for sale.

Please note that NO prices are to be quoted on air. Only a description of the items and your contact details must be provided.

1. _____ 2. _____

That brings us to the end of tonight's bulletin.

You have listened to the weekly news bulletin of the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society, read by Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!